

**Consumer Task Force
September 26, 2006
Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards**

MINUTES

ATTENDEES: RoAnne Chaney, Mike Head, Wendi Middleton, Marion Owen, Jackie Tichnell, Mary Raaymakers, Carolyn Lejuste, Mariam Abouzahr, Tandy Bidinger, Jack Vint, Michael Daeschlein, Marty Alward, Joe Longcor, Jacqui Day, Laura Hall, Carolyn Brown, Sara Harrison, Susan Steinke, Cathy McRae John Jokisch, Ruth Smith

1. **Announcements** - Marty Raaymakers will be retiring December 31st. Esther asked for a list of members to be distributed. Carolyn B. and Mariam requested copies of the Consumer Task Force manual. Jackie will distribute these.

If any member would like background information on any issue, please contact either Michael Daeschlein (daeschleinm@michigan.gov , 517-335-5106) or Jackie Tichnell (tichnellj@michigan.gov , 517-335-7803) at the Office of Long-Term Care Supports and Services.

2. **Minutes** - no comments

3. **Office of Long-Term Care Supports and Services Update**

- **Office Staff** - the Office is in the process of filling Civil Services positions. Deanna Mitchell has left the State and is now working for the Michigan Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. Gloria Lanum has joined the Office to help with contracts and personnel matters, to start. Mike H. has a power point presentation on the Office and its responsibilities. Jackie will distribute.
- **Long-Term Care Commission** - The Commission has started working on the Task Force recommendations and their progress. This is one of their charges from the Executive Order.
- **Systems Transformation Grant** - Michigan was awarded one of these grants. It is for \$2.4 million over 5 years. The three goals are for expanding the Long-Term Care Connections statewide, implementing person-centered planning in long-term care, and implementing Money Follows the Person rebalancing methods. The Office has to complete a strategic plan in order to receive the total funding awarded.
- **Long-Term Care 1915(b)(c) Waiver** - The Money Follows the Person grant has been extended for 12 months. The Office is currently working on educating the staff in this waiver and its concepts. We will soon start the interagency workgroups again, with consumer representation, and a new Office of Services to the Aging representative. Rob Curtner is the project manager for this waiver. A concept paper should be submitted to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the near future. Actuarial work needs to be developed. Detroit is interested in being one of the pilot sites. This project may take a different aspect with the implementation of Medicare Special Needs Plan, and the Olmstead principles for managed long-term care. The Office may plan a forum for this project as an educational event. If any member wishes to suggest someone to assist with this project, he/she should contact Mike H. It was noted that some advocacy groups are leery of managed care for fear of losing control of their services. The main elements of this project are person-centered planning, consumer choice, and individual budgets. If members of the Task Force wish to receive further

information on managed care, they should contact Mike H. It is imperative that the State manage the managed care entity.

- **Nursing Facility Transition Forum** - The Office has planned this forum to provide information regarding the nursing facility transition process. Experiences of consumers and facilities will be presented. The forum is scheduled for October 11, 1pm - 4pm, at Lansing Community College West.
- **LTC Partnerships HB 6478** - LTC partnerships allow consumers who purchase long-term care insurance to protect a specified amount of assets should they become Medicaid eligible. This bill also includes estate recovery. It has passed the House and is on tight timeframes. The Department will have to work closely with the insurance industry to implement this, should it pass. A bill was recently introduced that defined the minimum criteria for long-term care insurance, but it needs revisions. It was noted that any insurance paid to the consumer is considered as income and may affect the person's Medicaid eligibility.
- **DCH Long-Term Care Web Site** - The Office is working on updating the existing long-term care website at www.michigan.gov/ltc. It currently contains Commission and Single Point of Entry information.
- **Person-Centered Discovery** - This workgroup is creating the policy draft for person-centered planning for the MIChoice waiver. These will be shared with the Task Force in the near future.
- **2008 Budget** - The Office will soon begin work with the DCH Budget Office to discuss the 2008 Long-Term Care budget.

4. Brief Project Updates/Issues/Discussions

- **Self Determination Drafts** - Tari Muñiz has requested comments on the seven draft documents for Self-Determination in Long-Term Care. Comments may be sent to her at munizt@michigan.gov, or by phone to 517-335-5671. Comments should be submitted prior to October 20.
- **QCCC** - Cathy distributed the update of the QCCC
- **Consumer Consortium** - RoAnne indicated that a final report will be available at the next meeting. They will plan a presentation. Jackie will include this on the agenda.
- **Single Point of Entry** - The new name of these entities are "Long-Term Care Connections." They are beginning to work on their development, hiring, office space, etc. One of their contract charges is to work collaboratively with the providers in their community. They are beginning to create databases of providers and meeting with them. The first Information Forum was held in August. Jackie will distribute the questions and answers that resulted from that forum. Another forum was held Monday, September 25, with two more planned for October and November.

The LTC Connections (Single Points of Entry) are being trained on person-centered planning. These entities may provide general plans with the providers creating the more specific support plans, using the person-centered planning process. It is imperative that the consumers, workers, and providers are also trained in person-centered planning processes.

- 5. **DRA Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration Grant** - Michael D. presented an overview of this grant. This focuses on nursing facility transition and provides enhanced federal matching funds for services (including Home Help). No infrastructure funds are available. If awarded, the State has 6-9 months to complete and submit an operational protocol. Many of the components of the grant solicitation are already underway in Michigan. The Office is working with the Medical Services Administration

(Medicaid agency) in analyzing the data from transitioned consumers. Any savings from this grant should be redirected into long-term care.

6. Chicago Conference Follow-Up - Michigan had good representation with approximately 6 consumers attending. Jack and Jacqui provided good input from the conference. Both indicated it was full of information. The TIPS from CMS for Consumer Task Force members was distributed and will be included in the updated Consumer Task Force manual. The focus of the conference was on nursing facility transition and Money Follows the Person.

- The biggest barrier to transition nationwide is lack of affordable accessible housing. Steve Gold, from Philadelphia, presented a workshop on housing options and flexible use of tax credits. It was suggested that the State try to have him present at the 2007 Long-Term Care Conference. Every state is having difficulty with Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and getting more Section 8 housing vouchers.
- Other barriers include the difficulty in finding adequate caregivers (registries were of interest to states), quality assurance, data availability, lack of interdepartmental communication (the need to duplicate information every time a person changes a program or setting), programs talking to other programs (e.g., developmental disabilities talking to long-term care).
- Some states pool funds using grants to provide services.
- New Mexico has a program called MiVia that puts all their waivers under one umbrella. The Office has more information on this.

It did appear that Michigan is ahead of many other states with Single Points of Entry, Person-Centered Planning, etc. It was mentioned that Missouri is considering ending their Medicaid program, and using alternative methods/programs. There was no discussion of how other states operate their Consumer Task Forces.

7. 2007 Long-Term Care Conference - The Office is planning the 2007 Long-Term Care Conference. There will be several meeting with a planning committee. The Office will be sending the invitations to various organizations to join the planning committee. Suzanne Trent will provide conference planning/coordination again. The Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards will also provide conference assistance. Depending on the facility, the conference may be early April. The Office does not have the same amount funds available this time, so we are depending on vendors and sponsors to help defray the cost. We do intend to offer reduced rates to consumers/families and caregivers and will offer financial assistance to the extent possible. The purpose will be for networking, information, future plans, and policy perspectives.

8. Other business

Next meetings: October 24, 2006, 10:00 – noon, Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards
November 28, 10:00 – noon, Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards